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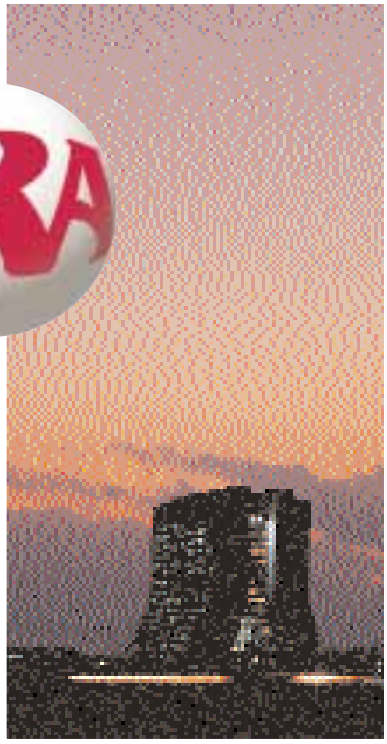


Universities Research Association (URA) is a consortium of 89 leading research-oriented universities primarily in the United States, with members also in Canada, Japan, and Italy.

At the behest of President Lyndon Johnson's Science Advisory Committee and the National Academy of Sciences, the not-for-profit URA corporation was founded in 1965 for management and operation of research facilities in the national interest. Presidents of participating universities organized their scientific and administrative talent toward this end, within the URA governing structure.

URA's charter is "...to acquire, plan, construct, and operate machines, laboratories, and other facilities, under contract with the Government of the United States or otherwise, for research, development and education in the physical and biological sciences... and to educate and train technical, research and student personnel in said sciences."

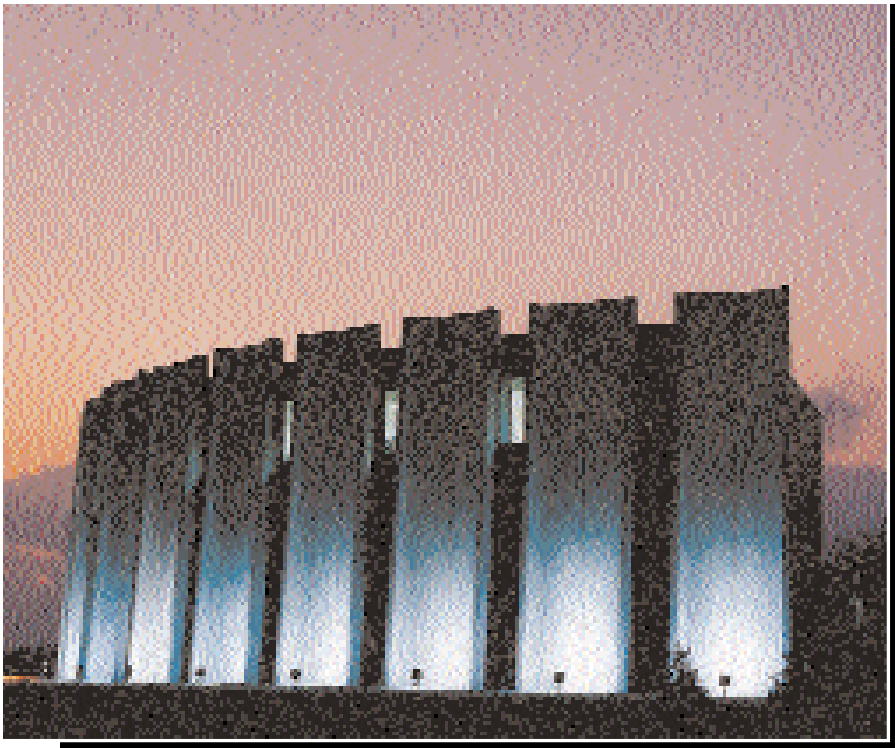
The corporation acts under the authority of its governing body, the Council of Presidents of its 89 member universities. A Board of Trustees appoints boards of overseers for each major research activity. The Washington headquarters office of URA coordinates the activities of the Council and boards, and is responsible for oversight and governance of the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory and for corporate relations with the Federal government, industry, academe, and the general public.

Since January 1967, URA has been the prime contractor to the Department of Energy for the creation and operation of Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory near Batavia, Illinois. Fermilab is home to the Tevatron, the world's highest-energy accelerator for elementary particle physics research.

Experiments using the Fermilab Tevatron led to the discovery of the elusive top quark particle in 1995. Fermilab's continuing upgrades will enable it to remain the center of global research on the top quark, the search for the Higgs boson, the exploration of neutrino mass, and other phenomena at the frontiers of physics. Fermilab and URA are also increasingly involved in particle astrophysics and related astronomical sciences, through participation in the Sloan Digital Sky Survey, the Pierre Auger Cosmic Ray Observatory Project, and the Cryogenic Dark Matter Search.

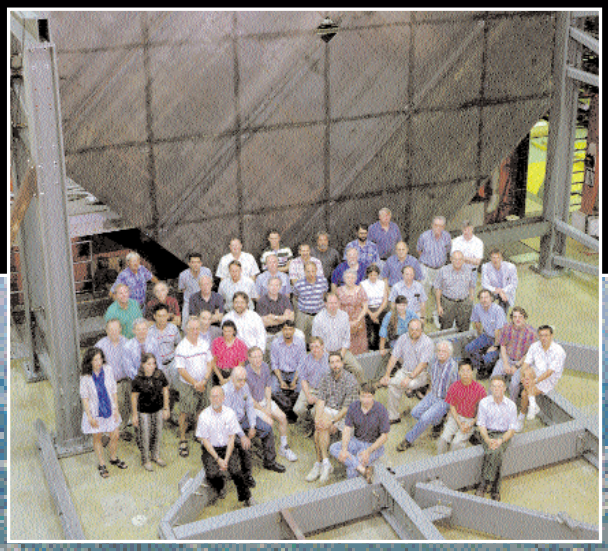
On behalf of the U.S. participants in a collaboration of scientists from some 20 countries, URA has received initial funding from the Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation for the U.S. share of the $100 million Pierre Auger Project. Under the leadership of Nobel Laureate James Cronin, this Project is designed to probe the mysterious origins and nature of cosmic rays in an energy regime some 100 million times greater than any accelerator has produced. This major new undertaking involves the construction of two Rhode Island-size detector arrays. Construction of the Southern Hemisphere Array, to be located in Argentina, is to commence in 2000, and will be followed by construction of the Northern Hemisphere Array, to be located in Utah.

For Fiscal Year 2000, DOE funding for URA's contracts is approximately $286 million, NSF funding is about $1 million, and NASA funding is expected to be $2 million.



Wilson Hall, the 16 story central laboratory building of Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, seen in the distance from Feynmann Computing Center. Fermilab's computing power, developed for data acquisition and analysis at the frontier of physics, also catalyzes other fields of science and technology.

Members of the MINOS collaboration before a prototype layer of the neutrino detector that will be assembled in the Soudan Mine in Minnesota. Six tons of thin sheets of steel plus scintillator will make up one plate of the giant 5,400-ton detector.



Aerial view of Fermilab shows the Main Ring and the new Main Injector for the Tevatron.

At center stage, inside the central bore of the DZero detector, is a new solenoid magnet, which will significantly extend the experiment's physics capability.

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This end plug for the CDF detector will enhance the performance of the entire detector, allowing physicists to study in even more detail the particles of matter, including the top quark.

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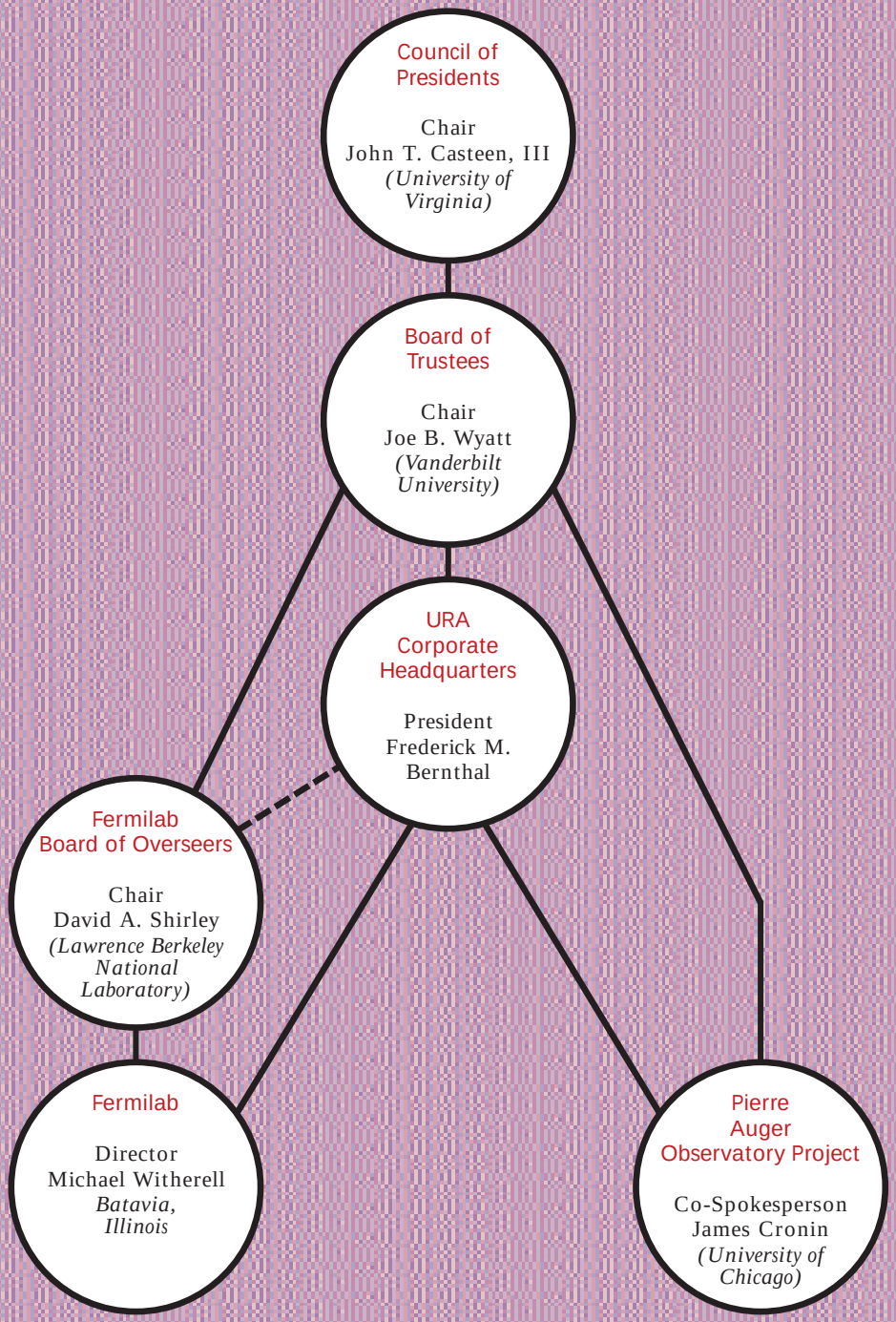

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Rev. 2/00

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URA provides a means by which universities may cooperate in fostering knowledge in the natural sciences, and in the planning, construction, and operation of large research facilities.